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(c) whether the Government have at any time considered the desirability of transferring recruitment to all departments to the Public Service Commission; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the strength of the Public Service Commission?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" (a) It is presumed that the information sought is not merely regarding the departments but also in regard to individual posts or the categories of posts, recruitment to which has been excluded from the Commission's purview. Attention is invited to the list of such posts given in Annexure I to the Madras Public Service Commission Regulations, 1937 at pages 11 to 13 of the Madras Services Manual, Volume I. Besides these posts, the administrative departments of Government concerned have also excluded some posts from the Commission's purview with its concurrence under Regulation 18 (b) of the Commission's Regulations. The Manual is available for reference at the Library of the Madras Legislature and also at the Secretariat Library.

" (b) The principles generally observed in excluding posts from the Commission's purview are—

(1) that the posts are unimportant and the holders thereof will not normally be promoted to the Provincial Services; and

(2) that the posts are isolated or of a special or technical nature.

" (c) The power to exclude posts from the Commission's purview is exercised very sparingly and for special reasons and whenever the excluded posts assume importance or there is change in their nature, the question of bringing them within the Commission's purview is duly considered. Such a survey was recently conducted as a result of which some posts which were outside the Commission's purview were brought within its purview.

" (d) The answer is in the negative."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is the information, Sir, regarding the review made of posts that have been brought within the purview of the Service Commission also available in the volume referred to by the Hon. the Minister for Law? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I do not think that is available in the volume. If a separate question is put I shall supply the information."

Austerity measures to conserve the meagre food supplies.

* 11 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) what austerity measures are being enforced in order to conserve the meagre food supplies available;

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(*b*) whether rations for special occasions such as marriages, funerals, etc., are being regulated according to rules and if so, what they are;

(*c*) who the authorities competent to sanction these special rations are;

(*d*) whether there have been occasions when the Government themselves relaxed the rules governing rations for special occasions and if so, what the special circumstances are which necessitated such relaxation;

(*e*) whether in the recent marriage season in the months of April, May and June the rules were relaxed in the City of Madras in respect of certain persons and if so, to what extent and for what reasons;

(*f*) what arrangements exist to enforce the austerity measures generally and in the case of relaxation of rules, for their proper enforcement to the extent relaxed;

(*g*) whether prosecutions have been launched in the recent months for violation of ration rules governing special occasions and if so, in how many cases; and

(*h*) whether it is a fact that there is a considerable laxity in enforcement of ration regulations?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" (*a*) The Government have prohibited the feeding of more than 50 persons at each of the two principal meals on the marriage day. On other days and at other parties feeding of more than 30 persons has been prohibited.

" Feeding of delegates at conferences and holding of subscription parties by clubs and associations do not come within the purview of these orders. Conferences are treated as temporary establishments and rations are allowed for feeding the delegates. No extra rations are granted for subscription parties held by clubs and associations.

"(*b*) Yes. The quantity of foodgrains now allowed for certain special functions is as follows :—

Name of function.	Quantity allowed.
Marriages	**Fifty persons at two units each.**
Funerals	**Fifty persons at one unit each.**
Upanayanams ..	**Six persons at two units each.**
Sbradda	**Four persons at one unit each.**
Ramzan	**Six persons at one unit each.**
Bakrid	**Do.**
Easter	**Do.**
Christmas and New Year.	**Do.**

" It has only recently been decided at the instance of the Government of India to allow rations for feeding 50 persons at 2 units each in respect of marriages and at 1 unit each in respect of funerals as against 60 units for marriages and 10 units for funerals in force in this State.

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"(*c*) The respective Circle Rationing Officers in statutorily rationed areas and the concerned Civil Supplies officials in other areas are competent to sanction the special rations at the scales prescribed by Government. Regarding the increased scale of supply of rations for marriages and funerals referred to in answer to clause (*b*) of the question above, necessary instructions are being issued to the authorities competent to sanction special rations.

"(*d*) Yes. The Government have been relaxing these limits of feeding in respect of religious festivals in temples and mutts, as it is a time immemorial custom in South India to conduct feeding on festival days and as complete stoppage of feeding will mean interference with the religious usages.

"(*e*) No.

"(*f*) The rationing staff in the statutory rationed areas and the Civil Supplies staff in other areas are expected to watch and enforce these rules.

"(*g*) Information not readily available.

"(*h*) Government are not aware of any laxity in the enforcement of ration regulations. Violation of ration rules will be dealt with suitably if brought to the notice of the officers concerned."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have instructed the rationing officers that they should see that the austerity measures including those that have been modified at the instance of the Government of India are strictly enforced in view of the food crisis?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA:—"Yes, Sir."

Retiring age of Gazetted Officers.

* 12 *Q.*—JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the prescribed retiring age of Gazetted Officers of the Madras State other than the All-India Services; and

(*b*) whether any rule is being prescribed for raising the retiring age of any officer now in service and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"(*a*) Gazetted Officers of the Madras State other than those belonging to All-India Services are required to retire on attaining the age of 55.

"(*b*) No."

2-45 p.m. JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI:—"Have the Government any statistics of officers whose terms of office have been extended after the age of 55 years?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I think specific questions were asked and answers were laid on the table showing the number of super-annuated officers whose terms were extended beyond the age of 55."